

Conversation with 12 year old white female, Arkansas (Transcription)

Subject #12---page 5

START 36 A(1)

F: What does your family do for Christmas? How do you celebrate Christmas at your house?

S: Well you see we live near our grandma and usually either on Christmas or Christmas Eve we'll open our gifts. It don't matter which depending on how many people's going to be down. Because most people come down the evening of Christmas Eve and all of our folks, so Christmas Eve morning sometimes we open our gifts because everybody's coming down you know and then they'd be in our house and everything. Sometimes we wait til Christmas. This year we're going to wait til Christmas. But then we go out to my grandma's and have dinner and they have a whole bunch of pies and cakes you know and all kinds of goodies and no that's the reason I like to go out there.

F: Who all will be there probably?

S: Well, my grandma and grandpa had twelve kids, but 2 of them died now there's ten living. We'll be there and my <unintelligible text> my Aunt <unintelligible text>, my Aunt <unintelligible text>, my Uncle <unintelligible text>, my Uncle <unintelligible text> my Uncle <unintelligible text>. Let's see my Aunt <unintelligible text>, there's one more let's see - and my Aunt <unintelligible text>. They'll all be there and well sometimes you know one of them can't make it you know but most of them will be there. Unless they want to stay home or something. And they'll go out there,

Subject#12---Page 6

and everyone will bring something you know like my aunts are <unintelligible text> good at making pies you know my <unintelligible text> is especially good at making pecan pie and that's one of my favorite kinds she'll make two or three or them and bring it down you know and then everyone will bring down something and then of the morning <unintelligible text> my grandma gets up and makes a few things you know. I really enjoy it.

F: Where do they all come from? Do they live right around here?

Library of Congress

S: No, we do. And my grandma. But my <unintelligible text> used to did, but she lives in Tulsa, OK. I'm gonna name where they live now. My <unintelligible text> lives in Tulsa, my <unintelligible text> lives in Missouri, and my <unintelligible text> and my <unintelligible text> lives in Farmington, and my Aunt <unintelligible text> lives in Farmington. My Aunt <unintelligible text> lives in Prairie Grove, not all that far from Farmington.

F: That's still in Arkansas isn't it?

S: And all the brothers live in Arkansas. And I think -yeah- and all the sisters except for <unintelligible text>.

F: Have you ever been out of Arkansas?

S: Yeah, I've been to Oklahoma and Missouri.

F: Well did you visit relatives there?

Library of Congress

S: Yeah.

F: Sounds like you have a good Christmas. What do you do about presents?

S: Presents?

F: Do you draw names for that big a family or what?

S: You see one time they did and like the kids all swapped <unintelligible text> and all the grownups did you know and now they just buy for their own family, their own kids, and you know they don't bring down a gift or two, so they won't feel left out. But one year they done it draw names and stuff and but we haven't but <unintelligible text> once or twice.

Subject #12---Page 7

Library of Congress

F: Do you know what you're going to give your mother for Christmas?

S: I haven't decided yet. Cause you know I look in this catalog you know and see a whole bunch of different things you know. Well momma would like this but she'd also like this so I don't know.

F: Do you have any special chores that you have to do around the house?

S: Well, you see I get \$5 allowance a week, and if I help momma she'll pay me you know extra. And if I - I told her that I would do the dishes for two weeks but that didn't last. And then she would give me like twenty or thirty dollars because I wanted these pair of skates there real neat ones and they cost about that much and mom said she'd get them for me you know really it'd be the skates you know but they cost about that much. Yeah, we do extra chores.

F: Do you have to clean your own room every day?

Library of Congress

S: Well, me and <gap> are together. But we do have to clean other ones sometimes, you know without getting paid. But sometimes momma pays us. But she gives us \$5 a week anyway.

F: Do you save part of your money?

S: Well, you see I was gonna buy this tent to go camping. It costed <\$20?> you know and I hadn't counted tax and stuff. But then it would cost about thirty dollars altogether and I was going to buy that but then I don't know if I'm going to or not, it depends. You know whenever momma takes up the order for the catalog, if I've got that much money then I will, but if I don't I won't.

F: What order for the catalog?

S: Montgomery Ward.

F: What do you <unintelligible text> takes up the orders?

S: You see I mean like if she wants to buy something, and then she'll write it down you know and then whenever she wants to send off

Subject #12---Page 8

to order, to send the order off. And then if I don't get enough money you know I can't get it.

F: Does she order a lot from Montgomery Ward?

S: Well, she bought - Montgomery Ward and Sears is what she orders and then from <unintelligible text> and Spencer catalogs. You know what they are. Mom buys she's got so many of those little what nots you know, them little breakable glasses and a whole bunch of these little <bells?> and little <owls?> and other things. She's got a whole bunch of stuff.

Library of Congress

F: They have some cute things from Spencer. Do you have a pet?

S: Well, we've got two dogs but actually they're not mine. They're my brother's and my dad's.

F: What kind are they?

S: They're red hound, I think.

F: Hunting dogs?

S: Yeah. One of them's a female and one's a male. I don't know if they're very good to hunt or not. We haven't hunted with them. We just got them here lately.

Library of Congress

F: Do you have a garden at your house?

S: Oh, yes. Every year.

F: Do you? A big one?

S: Well, now we've got this garden place at out house it's not real big but its a pretty good size. But then we've got this one up at <Croan?> Creek, it about twice that big. But we plant like corn over there and you know like potatoes and stuff like that. But over here in this other garden we plant - and we plant some beans over there but in this other garden you know we plant some tomatoes and other kind of stuff you know. But sometimes we plant you know different things we just sort of use both gardens.

Subject #12---Page 9

F: Do you help with it?

Library of Congress

S: Yeah. I have to help can.

F: Oh, tell me about that. What do you can?

S: Well I don't can for myself you know. I mean I can like I help <momma?>, I have to wash the jars and momma makes me scald them and I always burn my hands. But then I <unintelligible text> tomatoe juice. I have to squeeze that juice out, you know them kind of squeezers don't you?

F: Yes.

S: Well, its got these little handle like things and they're brown and they're they go like this then they come down like this then get bigger and you have to go down like that and but it's not all that bad.

F: Do you get it all over you?

Library of Congress

S: Oh yes. You know that juice is whenever you push it down it its pops you know. One time I had this pink gown. I was doing that and skerplash Right on to it.

F: Do you like tomato juice?

S: Huh?

F: Is it good?

S: Oh, yes. I love it.

F: About how many jars did you can this year?

Library of Congress

S: We canned a lot. We can them in half gallons you know these pretty good sized jars because there's six in our family. Everyone in our family loves it. Except my mom ain't crazy about it, and my sister. But they all like it. And so we canned up quite a bit.

F: What else besides tomato juice?

S: Beans and corn. We cut off corn you know except these real pretty ears we pretty pretty. You know we put in this froze you know. Stick them

Subject #12---Page 10

in the bags and tie them up and put them in the freezer. And then we've done let's see - just the other day we done a whole bunch of pears and mom done them I didn't help. Cause you know she had to cut them and I can't hardly cut them. But you know it's the real hard kind. You know it's hard for me to do that.

F: You said you like Spring or Summer <heat?>? Did I ask you that? Do you ever get sick?

Library of Congress

S: Yeah. You mean have to go to the doctor sick?

F: Or just have to stay home just don't feel good.'

S: Oh yeah. I've done that quite often though. But this one year this I don't know are you going to play this for <Mr. Williams?>?

F: No.

S: Okay. This one year when I was in the 2nd grade Mr. Williams came in and a lot of people you know had the flu and everything. And he says who all's sick you know and he says you can go home. And I didn't feel bad you know, at all, so I says oh I feel do bad you know. Cause I didn't know what to say you know I was just in second grade and I says oh I do and he says okay I'll take you home. <so as?> soon as I got home I got up and played and everything.

Library of Congress

F: Have you ever had like the measles or the mumps? Chicken pox?

S: Yes. Yeah, I had the chicken pox. Oh god I hated them. I had a pretty bad case of them you know and ooh it was gross though. I mean I'd scratch them and pop them and ooh it just itched so bad. And but the measles- I think it was the measles- I had when I was a little bitty baby and had to go to the doctor for them. But I don't remember it at all, but mom said I did.

F: What does your mother do for special things for you when you're sick?

Subject #12---Page 11

S: Well if she can't stay home my dad does you know. Or else I stay with my Grandma. But she if it's real bad or something she'll go down to the drug store and get a prescription and all. But otherwise she'll you know get some aspirin, I don't know what kind, you know just whatever kind, and she'll give you that and she'll take your temperature you know to see if it's gone down, and but now she's giving us this Vitamin C medicine, so we won't take a cold. I already had one, but I'm about to get over it.

Library of Congress

F: Does she cook you any special things.

S: Well, lets see. Sometimes. Actually, though we've got quite a bit to do, and momma has to get up around 6:30 and you know she has to get ready you know and go to work and we usually don't get up til about fifteen til seven, and then she fixes our breakfast every morning, and she goes on to work. Then used to tough when she didn't when she was just the clerk, that was like <gap>, and on Saturday she had to work. Whenever we was at school, she'd fix us these pies and it was these little bitty kind of pies you know, they were just like them store bought ones you know she's press around you know, and they were so good. And you know she'd give us milk and them kind of pies.

F: Oh, that sounds good.

S: You know out of her own fruit you know that she canned, and then we'd come home you know. But then whenever she goes to town she gets stuff like pizzas and cokes and stuff. But right now we're sort of short of money because of Christmas coming up and everything you know, but she says she's gonna get us all a bicycle for Christmas and you know some skates and stuff like that.

Library of Congress

F: Thats a lot of bicycles, isn't it?

S: Yeah. four. Well actually <unintelligible text> he already got his bicycle.

Subject #12---Page 12

That was for his birthday. He's only gonna get a few things for Christmas. Because you know that bicycle cost about \$150, if you want you know a good one and that's gonna cost quite a bit, but I don't mind just having skates you know and a bicycle or something I'd rather have that than a whole bunch of these little things you know. Cause them little things is gonna get tore up real easily.

F: That's right. Do you ever get in a fight with your sister?

S: Yes.

F: What about?

S: Oh, about a lot of things. But sometimes no reason at all. The other day it was the stupidest thing - . I had done something stupid like I always do, but the other day I was in there and I was going to sleep on that foldout bed in there and I didn't want to I was gonna I was sleeping down there on the floor and <unintelligible text> was laying down there and she wanted to fold it out you know and <unintelligible text> was in there first and something or other about that and I had my fingers laying down there and he rammed my finger. I guess it was accidental he didn't see my finger <gap> there, but we started in a fight you know and you know like that. And then momma says well <unintelligible text> who was lying you know and I wasn't. And <unintelligible text> says well I asked <unintelligible text> and we both wanted to fold that couch out, you know. And I says you liar, and then my finger was hurting anyway you know I didn't let anyone know you know but it was about to kill me. Then <unintelligible text> laid down you know <unintelligible text> went into another room and I went over there and I punched her nose and made it bleed.

F: Oh my goodness. What did your mother do?

S: She griped me out for it.

Library of Congress

D: Did she?

Subject #12---Page 11

3

S: Yeah.

F: Do you ever get grounded?

S: Well, yeah. But see the grounding if it don't - well she really don't ground us all that much. But then she whips us if we you know do something real bad. But I ain't got a whipping in a long time.

F: What does she whip with?

S: A switch, a belt. If she whips with her hand, she can't whip. The other day - I take that back, I did get one whipping - . The other day she got this switch and me and

Library of Congress

<unintelligible text> was fighting and <unintelligible text> he laid this jar there and I opened the door. And it rolled out and broke and <unintelligible text> got a whipping for that because momma told him specifically to put it up and she whipped me you know with the switch and I go over there and I you know - It hurt sort of but then it was funny at the same time. You know but I didn't let her know that it was funny at all.

F: That wouldn't have been good, would it?

S: Really.

F: How old is <unintelligible text>

S: Ten. But he's pretty hunky, you know. He was always Dad always you know wrestled around with him. He's pretty strong too.

F: Tell me about your Dad's accident.

Library of Congress

S: Well they were drunk, my Dad and, You know I told you about my <unintelligible text>?

F: Uh-huh.

S: And her husband and my dad they have come down over the weekend I think its was. No, it wasn't over the weekend. It was sometime anyway. And they came down and Daddy was supposed to yeah I think it was on Sunday and Daddy was supposed to go to work for that drill rig?

Subject #12---Page 14

He says, I know they shouldn't of went that night but I didn't say anything you know. But I had this feeling that they shouldn't go. And Dad says oh <unintelligible text> if that guys calls you know his home, just tell him that I've gone in the hospital, I've had an accident or something you know. Just <unintelligible text> around you know, telling him that. So he'd believe it he had to go to the doctor or something. But then they called up about 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning. He, the accident was on a Saturday night or Sunday morning, one. And they called up momma and <May?> I mean they were just nervous you know. And woman whenever she gets nervous she has to do something. She cleaned that house

Library of Congress

up just like that. I mean she just real fast go and gets it. But then what happened to him though was they had gone in this curve and there'd been this little sign but they couldn't see it you know because it was sort of covered up, but it went from the highway right on to the dirt road around this corner and its I guess they had to go up like this and they just turned you know and Dad's right leg was wrapped around the steering wheel but he wasn't driving. They don't know how - his hand was laying over there but his leg was broke and they said it was cut real - you know and just that stuff was hanging out. And my uncle Harold his neck was broke and my Dad he had a great big blood clot on his brain. I mean they said. It was a pretty good sized one around his brain somewhere. Momma wouldn't, see we had to go stay with - mom's a Christian and she called <unintelligible text> and then comes <unintelligible text> and picked us up. And took us over to their house. They've only got two boys you know, there's not nothing to do. And all of us kids went over there. <Except?> <unintelligible text>, she wasn't there, but we went over there and they wouldn't tell us

Subject #12---Page 15

though, momma wouldn't tell us that daddy had a blood clot, you know. But they called up and momma says she told <unintelligible text> that daddy had <unintelligible text> it out of the surgery you know around the blood clot you know. So then they told us but I'm sure glad he made it.

F: My goodness. Did they stay out there a long time before they got found after the accident?

Library of Congress

S: No, I don't

F: That road is pretty deserted, isn't it?

S: The best that I heard though- Well, in <unintelligible text> they did but it took them they said three hours to get them out. Because - out of the truck because it was so tore up, and everything.

F: My goodness, what about you uncle with the broken neck? Did he get alright?

S: Yeah, he was out of the hospital in two weeks. My dad had to stay in there for 28 days. From that Sunday to not the next Sunday but the next then the very next four weeks.

F: He's been disabled ever since then?

Library of Congress

S: Well, they said that they either disabled him the last time he went just a little while ago or gonna disable him, I think. I think they're gonna disable him.

F: Does he get along alright?

S: yeah, but for a long time though he had a cast clear up to his hip. But then about three or four months they took it off up to either here or here, one. To his knee, but then now he ain't got it. He sort of limps around just a little bit, not all that bad though.

F: How does he feel about the accident and everything? Is he doing alright about that?

S: Yeah, but you know they figured he'd quit drinking, but he hadn't.

END MS36 A(1)

Library of Congress